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February 2009

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eARMSTRONG

A newsletter for Armstrong Atlantic State University faculty & staff

Winter Graduation 2008

An estimated 650 graduating students received their diplomas during the largest winter commencement ceremonies in the history of the university. Two ceremonies were held on Saturday, December 13 in the Alumni Arena.

Kevin Fitzmaurice '99, '02, president of the AASU Alumni Association, presented the alumni welcome to the new graduates. The AASU Brass Ensemble, conducted by Mark B. Johnson, provided the musical accompaniment.



FEBRUARY 2009

Lane Library Receives NEH Grant

Lane Library received a \$2,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to participate in the “Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers’ Project.”

Under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and his Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Federal Writers’ Project (FWP) was formed and launched many of the important authors who chronicled the twentieth century.

“Soul of a People: Voices from the Writers’ Project” was developed by Spark Media, Washington, DC, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. Lane is one of 30 libraries selected to participate in the project.

Lane Library, History Department Chair June Hopkins, and Live Oak Public Libraries will partner to offer a series of five public programs to be held in March 2009. Hopkins has published a book, *Harry Hopkins: Sudden Hero, Brash Reformer*, about her grandfather who led the WPA.

The series of programs will explore the FWP through such resources as the *American Guide* series of state and regional travel guides, regional cultural studies, oral history interviews, films, and photographs. A community wide celebration of the Federal Writer’s Project, held at Live Oak Libraries, will kick-off the series. Two of the programs will feature works of local history, including *Drums and Shadows*, a collection of folklore and photographs of the African American community of coastal Georgia and slave narratives gathered by the WPA. A symposium of scholars is planned to address the slave narratives gathered in the 1930s by the WPA.

One program will focus on John Steinbeck, who was a part of the Federal Writers’ Project. It will include a screening of *The Grapes of Wrath* with a scholar-led discussion of its historical context.

The final program will focus on the FWP itself and will include excerpts from the new documentary produced by the NEH also called *Soul of a People*. The film features interviews with the late Studs Terkel, among others.

University Wins First NSF Undergraduate Institution Grants

AASU has received two grants totaling \$450,200 from the National Science Foundation Research in Undergraduate Institutions (NSF-RUI). It is believed that this is the first time that AASU faculty members have received NSF-RUI grants.

George Shields, dean of the College of Science and Technology, received \$255,200 for his research project to determine the minimum energy structures and the thermodynamics for formation of small aerosols that will serve as Cloud Condensation Nuclei. The grant will support three undergraduates in a summer research experience for three summers and a postdoctoral research associate for three years. The grant will also purchase additional computational resources.

Brent Feske, Clifford Padgett (both chemistry & physics), and Scott Mateer (biology) received a three-year \$195,000 grant to study the use of engineered e.coli to synthesize chiral molecules via biocatalysis. The grant supports faculty salaries, student salaries, and equipment during the project period.

Women's Soccer Players Cited for Academics

The AASU Women's Soccer program received the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's (NSCAA) Team Academic Award for academic excellence. The NSCAA named Junior Kristin Burton a Scholar All-American. *ESPN the Magazine* cited her as an Academic All-American. Senior Jennifer Brian received academic All-Region honors from both organizations.

Southern Poetry Review Lands NEA Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has announced that *Southern Poetry Review* is the recipient of a 2009 Literary Access to Artistic Excellence Grant. The \$5,000 grant follows two other grants that *Southern Poetry Review* received for 2008-2009: a \$1,500 grant from The Georgia Council for the Arts and a \$750 grant from the Southern Arts Federation.

The funds from these grants will be used to improve public access to the journal and to the art of poetry by developing a publicly accessible online archive of the journal, sponsoring festival readings in coordination with The Savannah Book Festival, and publishing a special fiftieth anniversary issue highlighting winners of *Southern Poetry Review's* Guy Owen Award.

The NEA grant will further support the publication and promotion of *Southern Poetry Review* through other literary journals.

Southern Poetry Review is housed on the Armstrong Atlantic State campus. Tony Morris serves as its managing editor. James Smith is the assistant editor. For further information about the *Southern Poetry Review*, go to www.spr.armstrong.edu.

A Healthy Selection of Spring Offerings at the Recreation Center

The Student Recreation Center is offering a healthy array of health wise programs to start the spring semester:

- **Extreme Challenge**
Take your fitness to the extreme. Attend 30 or more group exercise classes over 12 weeks and earn a prize. The program began January 26 and will run to April 24. Registration is underway at the Student Recreation Center front desk. Faculty and staff must be members of the center.
- **Wellness Presentations**
Wellness Presentations educate individuals on the different dimensions of wellness. These presentations are free and everyone is welcome to attend. No registration is required. Sessions are held at the center as follows: **Occupational Wellness**, February 9 at noon; **Emotional Wellness**, February 27 at noon; and **Physical Wellness**, April 10 at noon.
- **Weight Training Seminars**
These seminars will be led by one of the center's six nationally-certified personal trainers and are designed to show individuals the proper techniques of weight training. Also included are breathing techniques, how to determine reps and weight, and basic nutrition for weight training. Also discussed will be the do's and don'ts of weight training. Lastly, the trainer will lead a tour of the fitness center and demonstrate how to operate the equipment. Seminars will be held February 11 at noon; February 17 at 6 p.m.; March 11 at 10 a.m.; March 24 at noon; April 6 at noon; and April 27 at 6 p.m. Registration is not required.

- **Lunch-Hour Walking Sessions**

The popular lunchtime walking sessions through AASU's beautiful campus are back every Thursday and Friday at noon through May 1. The sessions last 30-45 minutes, but you can leave at any time. Walks begin in front of the Student Recreation Center at noon sharp. If the weather is bad, walkers will meet at the indoor track at 12:05 p.m. Be sure to bring water. Pedometers can be purchased for \$1. They are digital with a radio and measure how many calories you burned, how many steps you have walked, and read your heart rate

For question about these or any other recreation center programs, contact Megan Feasel, assistant director for fitness and wellness, at Megan.Feasel@armstrong.edu or 344.3089.

Calendar

February 4

Mid-Term (Session 2)

February 6

Curriculum Inventory Report due to registrar
Faculty Forum at noon

The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre hosts the Georgia Music Educators Association District Honor Band in concert at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Location to be announced. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for information.

February 9-20

The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents "An Artistic Discovery," the annual United States Congressional High School Juried Art Exhibition for the Georgia 1st and 12th Districts in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays. Admission is free. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for information.

February 9

Faculty Senate meeting at noon

February 12-14

The Masquers theatre troupe presents productions of the winning entries of the Spring 2008 Inaugural Coastal Empire Play Festival: *Residue* by Stacey Lane, *Moving to the Sun* by Phil Keeling, and *3000 Words About Nevada* by Erik Eberwein. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. in AASU's Jenkins Hall Black Box Theater. General admission is \$10. Discounts available to military, seniors, alumni members, AASU faculty/staff, and students/children. AASU students presenting valid AASU I.D. will be admitted free of charge. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for ticketing information. *Connect Savannah* is the print sponsor of the Masquers.

February 13

The Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture Series presents "Mechanisms of Spatial Orientation and Navigation: Similarity in Real and Virtual Environments" by Bradley R. Sturz in University Hall 156 at 12:15 p.m.

The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents PianoFest 2009 guest clinician, Calvin Permenter, in a guest artist recital at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. General admission is \$6. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for information.

February 14

The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents PianoFest 2009 competition winners in recital at 5:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for information.

February 15

Departmental textbook submissions for the summer term are due

February 18

University Curriculum Committee at 3 p.m.

February 19-22

The Masquers theatre troupe presents *The Full Monty*, Terrence McNally and David Yazbek's bare-it-all musical comedy. Unemployed steelworkers in Buffalo, NY come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. In the process they find renewed self-esteem, the importance of friendship and the ability to have fun. Join the Masquers to see whether these steelworkers show it all. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. on February 22) in AASU's Jenkins Hall Theater. Call 344.3169 for group ticketing information. General admission is \$15. Discounts available to military, seniors, alumni members, AASU faculty/staff, and students/children. AASU students presenting valid AASU I.D. will be admitted free of charge. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for information.

February 21

Pirate Preview, AASU Open House, at 10 a.m.



February 23

AASU Southbridge Pirate Invitational

The AASU Men's golf team competes against other top teams in the annual Pirate Invitational.

Southbridge Golf Club Tee times begin at 8:30 a.m.

2009 Golden Graduates Reunion 1937–1959 luncheon at Johnny Harris Restaurant. By invitation only. Contact Beth Crovatt at Beth.Crovatt@armstrong.edu or 912.344.2541.

February 24

AASU Southbridge Pirate Invitational (Day 2)

The AASU Men's golf team competes against other top teams in the annual Pirate Invitational.

Southbridge Golf Club Tee times begin at 8:30 a.m.

Invitational Alumni Art Exhibit Opening and Reception

View the recent work of talented art alumni who return to campus for Homecoming 2009. The exhibit runs through March 10 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. Reception in the Fine Arts Gallery at 6 p.m. For more information contact the Art, Music & Theatre Box Office at 912.344.2801.

Golden Graduates Reunion 1937-1959

The AASU Alumni Association will host a reception and presentation given by Marilyn and Joe Buck in Solms Hall, Room 108 prior to the annual AASU Music Ensembles Showcase Concert. By invitation only.

Contact Beth Crovatt at Beth.Crovatt@armstrong.edu or 912.344.2541.

AASU Music Ensembles Showcase Concert

Music ensembles shine in this scholarship fundraising concert event. Performing groups include the AASU Wind Ensemble, University Chorale, University Singers, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Combo. Enjoy the concert in the newly-remodeled Fine Arts Auditorium. The *Savannah Morning News* is the print sponsor of this concert. Fine Arts Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door.

For ticketing information call the Art, Music & Theatre Box office at 912.344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

February 26-28

The Masquers theatre troupe presents *The Full Monty* (see description for 2/19-22)
Performances are at 7:30 p.m. in AASU's Jenkins Hall Theater.

February 28

Homecoming Tailgate Party

Alumni, students, staff, faculty, and the public are all invited to bring picnic baskets and party before the afternoon's basketball and baseball games. Stop by the special alumni area. Sports Center parking lot from noon to 2 p.m.

Basketball vs. Lander

Women at 2 p.m.

Men at 4 p.m.

Alumni Arena.

Baseball vs. Francis Marion

Pirate Field at 2 p.m.

March 1

Buccaneer Region Sports Car Club of America Solo Autocross in the

Science Center parking lot

10-11:30 a.m. — Event check-in (if pre-registered), registration, and car tech inspection

11:30 a.m. — Novice course walks

Noon — Safety meeting and work assignments

12:15 p.m. — Competition runs begin

SCCA members, AASU students/faculty, active military \$25; all others \$35

www.buccaneerregion.org/soloevents.html

Baseball double header vs. Francis Marion

Pirate Field at 11 a.m.

Kudos

George Shields (College of Science and Technology) coauthored “Efficient and Accurate Characterization of the Bergman Cyclization for Several Eneidyne Including an Expanded Substructure of Esperamicin A1” in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

Wayne Johnson (engineering studies) coauthored two papers and a poster presentation based on research involving a device designed, constructed, and tested at AASU. “Computer Controlled Chamber Measurements for Multiple Contacts for Soil-Skin Adherence from Aluminum and Carpet Surfaces” was published in the *Journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*. “Soil-Skin Adherence from Carpet: Use of a Mechanical Chamber to Control Contact Parameters” was published in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*. “Comparisons of Computer Controlled Chamber Measurements for Soil-Skin Adherence from Aluminum and Carpet Surfaces” was presented at the Arkansas Biosciences Institute 2008 Symposium in Little Rock, AR.

Patricia Wachholz (College of Education) coauthored a presentation, “Making Fluency Real in Content Area Classes,” at the annual convention of The National Council of Teachers of English in San Antonio.

Eric Werner (chemistry & physics) coauthored “1,2 Hydroxypyridonate/Terephthalamide Complexes of Gadolinium(III): Synthesis, Stability, Relaxivity, and Water Exchange Properties” published in *Inorganic Chemistry*.

Mark Budden (mathematics) coauthored “Practical Tips for Managing Challenging Scenarios in Undergraduate Research” in *Resources for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics*. He also coauthored “Undergraduate Research: How Do We Begin?” in *MAA Focus*.

Budden, **Paul Hadavas**, and **Lorrie Hoffman** (all mathematics) coauthored “On the Generation of Correlation Matrices” in *Applied Mathematics E-Notes*.

Christopher Baker (languages, literature & philosophy) wrote “Five Questions from Missouri,” in the December 2008 issue of *The Teaching Professor*.

Richard Cebula (economics) wrote “The Impact of the Repeat-Voter-Habit Persistence Phenomenon on the Probability of Voting in Presidential Elections” in the *Southern Economic Journal*. He also authored “Does the Public’s Job Approval Rating of the U.S. President Influence the Degree of Federal Personal Income Taxation” in *Public Finance*. His article, “Health Insurance Coverage: A Private Enterprise Perspective,” was published in the fall 2008 issue of the *Journal of Private Enterprise*,

Cebula was also named to a renewable five-year term as editor of the *Journal of Regional Analysis*.

Kalenda Eaton (languages, literature, and philosophy) presented “Mother, Son, and Holy Ghost: Reading Flannery O’Connor’s Everything that Rises Must Converge” as part of the Flannery O’Connor House Fall Lecture Series. Eaton also presented: “Jumping Up to Get Beat Down?: Reflections on the Perils of Black Progress in Richard Wright’s 12 Million Black Voices and Black Power” at the Richard Wright Centennial Symposium, at the University of Beira Interior in Covilha, Portugal.

Mike Toma (economics) will speak to the Bryan County chapter of Savannah Home Builders in March.

Brenda Logan (middle & secondary education) chaired a paper session at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in January 5 at which she presented “What Novice Teachers Need to Know about Classroom Management & Administrators.”

Wendy Wolfe (psychology) and her student, **Tristen Hastings**, presented a poster, “The effects of reflective processing versus rumination on emotional responses to SAD memories: Influence of pre-existing depressive symptoms and ruminative tendencies,” at the 42nd annual conference of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in Orlando. Their research was supported by a 2008 summer student-faculty collaborative grant from the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mirari Elcoro (psychology) published “Including physiological data in a science of behavior: A critical analysis” in the *Brazilian Journal of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy*.

Nancy Remler (languages, literature & philosophy) received a \$830 grant from the Georgia Council of Teachers of English to establish a teacher education resource center in the department. The grant will equip a classroom in Gamble Hall with the necessary technology and materials so that teacher education students can conduct and video record teaching demonstrations for practice and critique before embarking on their internships.

James Smith (languages, literature & philosophy) edited *Dont Leave Hungry, Fifty Years of Southern Poetry Review* that was published by University of Arkansas Press.

Michael Hall (history) spoke to The Landings’ Professional Educational Organization in January about Jorge Amado’s novel, *Gabriela, Cove and Cinnamon*.

Felix G. Hamza-Lup (computer science) will present “Interactive 3D Web-Based Environments for Online Learning: Case Studies, Technologies and Challenges” at the International Conference on Mobile, Hybrid, and On-line Learning in Cancun, Mexico.

Priya Goeser and **Wayne Johnson** (both engineering studies) and Tina Thompson (Mercer University School of Medicine) were coauthors. The paper reports a survey of research projects and developments efforts at AASU in collaboration with Mercer Medical School.

Hamza-Lup’s paper, “Collaborative Haptic Environment Assessment,” has been accepted for presentation at the Joint EuroHaptics Conference on Haptic Interfaces for Virtual Environment and Teleoperator Systems, next month in Salt Lake City. Student coauthors were **Benjamin M. Lambeth** and **James LaPlant**.

Hamza-Lup is a principal in the Neuro-Pathways project, a joint collaboration between Mercer University School of Medicine Savannah Campus and the N.E.W.S. (Network Enabled Work Spaces) lab in the AASU computer science department. The collaborative has launched a set of online 3D interactive simulation tools at www.neuro-pathways.org.

Unrestricted AASU Foundation Funds Monthly Report

The Office of External Affairs reports the expenditure of unrestricted AASU Foundation funds requested by administration, faculty, staff, and community partners for various programs and projects that qualify for such support. Unrestricted funds are those given to the foundation to enable the university to support worthy academic, student and community programs and projects for which state funds cannot be used. They are also used to supplement existing state funding to the university and to assist the university in raising additional money. Unrestricted funds are raised chiefly from the annual campaign, in particular the 3 Days for AASU fund drive in April, faculty/staff campaign in August, and the alumni phonathon in October and November.

November 2008

Aramark Campus Services Donor Stewardship At the request of the Office of Development	\$43.80
Aramark Campus Services Gold Star Focus Group At the request of Jonnie Chandler	\$108.00
Aramark Campus Services Housing Ph III/Master Plan At the request of Student Affairs	\$181.55
Coca-Cola Phonathon At the request of the Alumni Relations Office	\$355.00
100 Black Men of Savannah Annual Membership for 2009 At the request of Zaphon Wilson	\$285.00
First City Club Institutional Monthly Membership At the request of the vice president for external affairs	\$104.00
Aramark Campus Services Donor Stewardship Lunch At the request of the Office of Development	\$75.96
Aramark Campus Services Meals for the Foundation Board of Trustees Retreat At the request of Foundation Board Chair Ann Purcell	\$534.96
Aramark Campus Services President's Breakfast At the request of President Jones	\$134.91
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues — Legislative Breakfast At the request of President Jones	\$125.00

December 2008

Yassamand Saadatmand Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$91.00
June Hopkins Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$138.56
David Wheeler Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$882.25
Aramark Campus Services Pirate Review — Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$989.49

United Way of the Coastal Empire Victory Luncheon At the request of President Jones	\$125.00
Aramark Campus Services Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$101.94
Ellen V. Whitford Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$82.20
Elizabeth DuBose Ossabaw Island At the request of the vice president for external affairs	\$150.00
Savannah Chapter of the Links Quarter Page Advertisement At the request of Zaphon Wilson	\$40.00
Aramark Campus Services Candidate Search At the request of the vice president for academic affairs	\$77.94
Aramark Campus Services Chatham County Delegation — Master Planning At the request of Bill Megathlin	\$199.80
Aramark Campus Services University System of Georgia visit for Presidential Search At the request of President Jones	\$151.10

AASU in the News

Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media during December and January. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque in Marketing & Communications at Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu or 344.2971.

- 12/11 Barbara Myers and graduating students interviewed on job prospects after commencement
WTOC-TV
- 12/11 Richard McGrath (economics) interviewed regarding rescue package for automakers
WJCL-TV
- 12/12 Michael Toma (economics) quoted in front page story about unemployment insurance claims.
Savannah Morning News
- 12/13 AASU holds largest winter commencement graduation in university history
WTOC-TV
- 12/17 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed live regarding economy
WBMQ-AM
- 12/17 AASU *Economic Monitor* Sees Regional Recession
Coastal Courier

- 12/29 AASU 2008 highlights include: addition of cyber security certificate; 3 Days for AASU's 36 percent increase in donations over previous year; and planned construction for a new student union.
Business Report & Journal
- 1/7 Ned Rinalducci (psychology) interviewed regarding the situation in Gaza
WSAV-TV
- 1/8 Richard McGrath (economics) interviewed regarding hiking gas prices
WTOC-TV
- 1/11 Richard McGrath (economics) interviewed regarding stimulus package.
WJCL-TV and WTGS-TV
- 1/14 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed about the regional job market.
Savannah Morning News
- 1/21 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed about economic value of making Savannah a more bike-friendly community
WSAV-TV
- 1/21 Ed Strauser (middle & secondary education) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and research in Ukraine during the spring 2009.
Savannah Morning News
- 1/22 Michael Mink (health sciences) interview regarding his research ahead of his faculty lecture presentation about food ads on TV
WSAV-TV
Also, *Connect Savannah* (1/21)
- 1/22 Paul Mullen (political science) interviewed regarding the second swearing-in ceremony of President Barack Obama
WTOC-TV
- 1/23 Michael Toma (economics) quoted in story on the front page of business section regarding loss of 3,000 jobs in the area over the past year
Savannah Morning News
- 1/28 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed live regarding the local economy
WBMQ-AM
- 1/30 Michael Toma (economics) quoted in a front-page story regarding unemployment rates in the region.
Savannah Morning News

University System Electronic News Sources

Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG).

- During the legislative session, the USG keeps state university employees abreast of issues that affect them through the weekly *Legislative Update*: www.usg.edu/pubs/lu/.
- For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly *System Supplement*: www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/.
- *Value Added—USG Serves Georgia* focuses on how the university system and its campuses are serving Georgia and local communities. To read this monthly publication, go to: www.usg.edu/pubs/value/.
- *Linkages* reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: www.usg.edu/linkages/.

The submission deadline for the March issue of

***e*ARMSTRONG**

is February 16.

Please send submissions to AASU.news@armstrong.edu.

*For more information contact Barry Ostrow in the Office of University Relations
at 344.2876 or Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.*